



THE MONITOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOOSIER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A non-profit organization dedicated to the education of its membership and the conservation of all amphibians and reptiles

Volume 28 Number 11

November 2017

Monthly H.H.S. Meeting Holliday Park Nature Center



Wednesday November 15, 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Stanley Schultz
Topic: "The Keeping of Tarantulas"

First of all, we all know that tarantulas or any spiders are not reptiles or amphibians. They belong to the order of arachnids same as scorpions, etc. But many of us "herpers" also keep tarantulas or scorpions in our collection of exotic pets. They do share one issue in common with snakes and other cold blooded creatures. They are often misunderstood and feared since they are so different than other more common pet species. Like many herp hobbyists, I keep four species of tarantulas and one scorpion in my collection. Stanley and his wife Marguerite were concerned that there wasn't enough information on the care, housing and feeding of these mysterious creatures. So they traveled and did extensive research and the result was their book, The Tarantula Keepers Guide, now in its revised edition. This book is often called the "Bible of Arachnoculture." Be sure to attend this meeting and find out the truth about these fascinating creatures. If you have the book be sure to bring it and Stan will autograph it for you. If you don't have one, Holly will bring a few copies and you can buy it at the meeting at a discount price.
See you there - ED

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

President's message

Jim Horton

This month we will vote for 2018 officer positions. Please give this some thought as to whom you might want as an officer for the HHS board. Its still not too late to nominate someone. You can even nominate yourself.

Our annual Christmas party is December 2nd. Ed Ferrer reserved a room for us at MCL south. MCL has some of the best food around! We've inserted our annual Christmas party flier in this issue. No reason to mail it twice. Hope to see you there!

This will be our last issue of the Monitor for the year. As usual, we like to take a break for the holidays. In January, we'll have our annual Photo contest. The off time should give us all plenty of time to get our best shots ready!

At the board meeting, the idea came up regarding a donate tab on our website. Barbara Filtri has graciously agreed to add this to our web page and it is now up and running! Thanks Barbara!

I mentioned another fundraiser for the HHS - Amazon Smile. This is a fundraiser for non-profits. This allows a small donation to the non-profit every time a user purchases through Amazon. We'll explain more when this feature is implemented. Barbara has also agreed to set this up for us! We are very fortunate to have Barbara and Giuseppe in our organization!

Are you a fan of spiders? If so or even if not, you're sure to find this month's guest speaker to be interesting. He has talked for us before and we had a full house. Come see Stanley Schultz this Wednesday. If you have his book-The Tarantula Keepers' Guide, you can get it signed. He might even have a few copies for sale.

The Holliday Park Fall Festival was a great time for us and our visitors. See pics and a review inside.

Your nominees for 2018 HHS officer positions

President – Jim Horton

Vice-President – Heather White, Robert Tyler

Treasurer – Roger Carter (incumbent)

Secretary – Holly Carter (incumbent)

Sergeant At Arms – Rex Morell, Neil Jones

Members at Large – Kimberly Scott, Barbara Filtri, Pat Hammond, Abbey Watson, Rex Morell, Rober Tyler, Ed Ferrer, Dale Schoentrup, Angela Thomas

The Monitor is printed courtesy of:

Harding Poorman



HHS at Holliday Park for Fall Fest

HHS members showed up in force by filling the room with live reptilians of every size, shape, and color! The event lasted from 1:30 to 4:30 PM and rainfall brought many activities indoors. Patrons kept us busy all day with questions and requests to touch our magnificent animals. Many thanks to our members for taking the day to support the HHS! Thanks to: Dale Schoentrup, Robert Tyler, Katie Kulcon, Roger and Holly Carter, Abbie Watson, Laurie Mitchell, Rex Morell, Kimberly Scott, Jim Horton, and Ed Ferrer.

Text and photos by Jim Horton



Robert Tyler shows his bull snake



Abbie Watson and Dale Schoentrup talking with our visitors.



Dale's big Sulcata tortoise was a hit.



Kimberly Scott and Katie Kolcon with their scaly friends.



Holly Carter and Laurie Mitchell



Rex and Abbie had an awesome display.

HHS helps out at MOAAR Symposium

Several HHS members exhibited live animals at the Medicine of Aquatics, Amphibians, and Reptiles Symposium at Purdue University. Thanks to Heather White for overseeing our organization at this event.

Dale Schoentrup, Rex Morell, Abbie Watson, Robert Tyler, Heather White and Angela Thomas displayed live herps. Robert Tyler and Angela Thomas gave presentations.

By Jim Horton Photos by Heather White.



Minnesota holds 33rd Midwest Herpetological Symposium

By Jim Horton

Another fine Midwest Herp Symposium hosted by the Minnesota Herpetological Society has passed. The weekend-long conference was the weekend of October 20-22. The MHS was held at the Best Western Hotel, adjacent the Mall of America Pat, Neill and I had to visit this monstrosity of a mall just to say we'd been there. It was indeed huge, complete with an indoor theme park.

This year, our friend, Jeff Laclere and Dav Kaufman presented at the ice breaker on Friday night. This was followed by an open hospitality room for attendees.



Symposium attendees take in the talks.

Saturday was the bulk of the talks and the real heart of the conference. Six guest speakers from various universities and organizations gave superb talks on their subjects. We learned so much!



Auction items await eager buyers.

Saturday evening started with the banquet, followed by the keynote speaker Mr. Whit Gibbons, and an auction. The auction is held to raise monies for the local hosting herp society (in this case, the Minn. Herp Society). Along with a live auction is a silent auction. This helped to alleviate a long, drawn out live auction. Most of us spent some cash on those items we'd been eyeing all night. You know, those one-of-a-kind items that we paid a bit more for. Afterwards, we visited with friends (fellow attendees) in the hospitality room while taking in adult beverages and munchies.

Sunday morning we attended the Midwest Planning Committee meeting. We soon headed back for the long drive to the Hoosier State. Roger and Holly Carter, Pat Hammond, Maryanne Watson, Neill Jones, and myself attended the conference this year.

The HHS we be hosting next year. Hope to see you all at the 34th Midwest Herpetological Symposium here in Indy!

More from the MOAAR Symposium



Welcome returning members!

Jack Bennent

Ed Ferrer

Mark & Sue Henderson

Paul Hofsommer

Mike McNeely

Stacey Roesch

Robert Tyler

October Meeting Review

By Jim Horton

Our guest speaker last month was Yatin Kalki. A current student at the University of Illinois, Yatin is a huge fan of herpetology. Back in his homeland of India, he found snakes and other reptilians at an early age.

He was so into these limbless creatures that he started to study the species in his area. He then found and photographed as many as he could. Soon his neighbors started to notice and before long he was capturing/relocating snakes from the neighborhood.

His interest brought him to the United States where he is currently studying natural resources, environmental sciences, and wildlife conservation.

His talk focused mostly on his finds near his home town of Bangalore. Here he was able to work with local authorities catching and relocating snakes. But not just any snakes, highly venomous species. His rundown of the most common snakes found around his town were: Indian cobra, Indian ratsnake Russell's viper, checkered keelback, and the spectacled cobra. He learned to train his dog to locate snakes. A video proved his dog was spot-on in sniffing out serpents. After searching a structure, the dog would point in the direction of the snake and was conditioned to sit.

While visiting a research station in India, he met a man whose name is synonymous with Indian herpetology, especially his work with cobras. Mr. Rom Whitaker. Yatin was well aware of who Rom is and was thrilled to have met him.

Yatin played several videos and the one I remember most was a Russell's viper in defense mode. The snake was flattening and hissing loudly. Russell's vipers are responsible for most of the deaths in India.

He visually (via-PowerPoint) took us to his favorite areas around his country. Agumbe Karnataka was his personal favorite. This rainforest on the southwestern India was home to many species.

At a recent trip to the Western Ghats he found a plethora of herps! Some of the most notable species were the gliding snakes (*Chrysopelea*). These common snakes can flatten their body by extending their ribs. This allows for quick glides through the forest canopy.

The Malabar gliding frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*) is also found here. This species (commonly known as the *parachute frog*) is equipped with large webbing between each digit. This enables it to glide from high in the trees to lower elevations.

The most common species observed here was the green vine snake, Malabar pit viper, and the gliding snakes. Yatin also found numerous lizard, frog, and caecilian species.

He mentioned his most undesirable part of the Ghats – leeches. I think I could put up with that if I had the chance to visit this 'herpers' dream!

KNIVES AND ARACHNID ART

Article and pictures by Roger Carter



Since our November speaker is an expert on tarantulas, I am describing a knife that was made to represent a spider. It's obviously meant to be a web spinning spider but I don't have any knives that look like any tarantulas.

The handle of this large knife was made to resemble a spider with the blades probably meant to pictorially represent the spider's fangs. Engraving on the left fang reads "440 STAINLESS" and "CHINA". The knife is thirteen and one-half inches long from the point of the blades to the back end of the spider's abdomen and the blades are eight and eleven/sixteenths long from the point to the front of the spider's face. The spider is five and one-half inches wide between the outermost legs. The interior cavity has four rounded lobes that go all the way through the spider's body and, on the spider's body, there are four human skulls formed in the metal. The spider's image is on both sides. The edges are not sharp so this is meant to be purely decorative. The blades are polished while the spider is a slightly darker shade.

HHS teaches Master Naturalist Program

Jim Horton

Once again Roger and Holly Carter and I brought an array of local reptiles and amphibians to an Indiana Master Naturalist Program. The October 4 program was held at Twin Bridges Nature Center in Danville, IN.

I presented a PowerPoint featuring the Amphibians and Reptiles of Indiana. Afterwards, we displayed live herps and discussed the biology and habits of each. We also brought field guides, snake sheds, hooks, tongs, and other herp-related items.

The many questions from the audience had given us the feeling of a job well done. In fact, we've been invited back next year!



2017 HERPETOLOGICAL EVENTS

November 15, 2018 – HHS meeting, 7:00PM, Holliday Park Nature Center, Guest Speaker: Stanley Schultz. Topic – “The Keeping of Tarantulas.”

December 2, 2017 – HHS Christmas party. Location – MCL south.

January 17, 2018 – Annual Photography contest. All members encouraged to participate in both wild and captive categories. There will also be a kids category.

HOOSIER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Treasurers report – November 2017

Roger Carter

Checking - \$930.63

Savings - \$7,367.71

Your HHS Board of Directors for 2017

PRESIDENT	Jim Horton	(317) 443-4845	stardali84@hotmail.com
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The Hoosier Herpetological Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of its membership and the conservation of all reptiles and amphibians. General monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Holliday Park Nature Center. Membership is open to all interested individuals. **No venomous animals are allowed at the General Meetings.**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

____ **New Member**

____ **Renewal**

____ **Name**

____ **Address**

____ **City**

____ **Email Address**

____ **Individual/Family Membership \$20.00**

____ **Sustaining Membership \$25.00 or more**

____ **Herpetological Interest(s)**

Hoosier Herpetological Society
P.O. Box 40544
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46240-0544



Dated Material Enclosed

Address Correction Requested

_____ If this area is checked, it's time to renew your membership!